

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 16 September 1959

PRESENT: Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray, Mr. Harr, Mr. Irwin,
Mr. Murphy, Mr. Saccio, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Smith

Mr. Murphy assumed the Chair, his official appointment as OCB Chairman having been received from the White House.

1. Possible Rice Drop for Sam Neua

Mr. Dulles told the Board of the report from Joseph Alsop to the effect that troops and others in the vicinity of Sam Neua are very low on food. [REDACTED]

Mr. Murphy responded that State had had no reports indicating a need for food, but that the Department would look into the matter. None of the other members had had any reports confirming Alsop's statement. It was agreed that no official U. S. action should be initiated until the need could be verified.

2. French Attitude Regarding Laos Situation

Mr. Murphy reported on a conversation with the French Ambassador which had made it apparent that the French are not happy about the U. S. role in Laos, particularly with regard to training activities. A discussion ensued as to what the actual limitations are; for example, it seems that training in the use of weapons is permitted, while training in tactics may not be. In any case, the Board concluded that American representatives should take a liberal view of their responsibilities and prerogatives.

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3. Khrushchev Visit

The discussion then turned to the reporting in Soviet media of the reception given to Khrushchev and his party by the American people. It was particularly noted that the Soviet press and radio had claimed a warmth and spontaneous approbation that, in fact, had not existed. It was agreed that it would be useful if the U. S. press could make the most of this discrepancy and place the reception in proper perspective. The DCI commented that this presentation to the Soviet people was understandable in view of the fact that from Khrushchev's point of view the visit to the U. S. must appear to be a smashing success.

It was pointed out that Ambassador Menshikov seems to have been trying to keep Khrushchev from doing a number of things that we--and perhaps he--might want him to do. An example was the fact that the helicopter trip over Washington on Tuesday afternoon was proposed by President Eisenhower directly to Khrushchev and spontaneously accepted by him. It was felt that Menshikov would never approved of this.

Mr. Murphy then went into some detail on the talk between the President and Mr. Khrushchev which had resulted in the working out of broad terms of reference for the Camp David discussions. He said among other things that the visitor had made a point of his professed desire to temper the Cold War, and that he had refused to accept the statement of the President and others that the U. S. Government is not in a position to control the American press.

4. Medical Supplies for Poland

Mr. Harr then mentioned a proposed project of the Richardson *group* ~~Foundation~~ to provide medical supplies for Poland. He said that the ~~Foundation~~ would like to have a letter from an appropriate U. S. authority similar to one that had been written by Mr. Cutler a year or so ago. ~~It was decided~~ that in view of the Vice-President's recent trip to Poland, it would be appropriate for him to sign such a letter. A draft will be checked with the appropriate State Department desk.

*Mr. R.
had
suggested*

5. Radio

Mr. Washburn reported on George Allen's talk with Georgi Zhukov, Chairman of the State Committee for Cultural Relations, stating that the latter had indicated strong hostility toward Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. He had also castigated the U. S. for sponsoring Radio Baikal and Radio Caucasus, which he described as being located on Okinawa and on a ship near Rhodes, respectively. In addition, he had mentioned "a Free Russia station at Frankfurt."

Mr. Washburn distributed an excerpt from a memorandum covering the Allen-Zhukov conversation. He also noted that USIA had, as of that moment, no confirmation of a report that Soviet jamming of VOA has begun again.

6. Great White Fleet

At Mr. Harr's initiative, the Board then examined the status of the Great White Fleet proposal. The State representative indicated that the Department was lukewarm on this project, while the ICA member, basing his position primarily on unhappy experiences with Project HOPE, took a similar view. It seemed to be generally agreed that the responsibility for the Great White Fleet rests with Defense. Mr. Irwin disavowed any specific knowledge but agreed to look into the matter.

7. Indonesian Merchant Marine

Mr. Irwin then referred to reports that the merchant marine of Indonesia has been subjected to a considerable amount of Communist control and asked whether the U. S. should not take steps to meet whatever needs the merchant marine might have. He did not have the reports on which this comment was based but agreed to try to procure them.

8. Chemical Warfare

Mr. Murphy informed the Board that Dr. York had expressed a desire to brief the members on the latest military developments in the field of chemical warfare, particularly gases. Mr. Irwin said that Secretary McElroy wishes to defer such a discussion until the JCS has considered the matter thoroughly.

9. Recruitment and Financing of American Professors for the UAR.

Mr. Murphy broached the above subject, referring to the internal State Department report from Robert Thayer which had been circulated to the Board members. The DCI and others expressed the opinion that it would be in the best interests of the U. S. to assure that an adequate number of qualified American professors were provided to replace Soviet professors who have been teaching in UAR universities.

Mr. Irwin suggested that there are a number of retired service personnel who are currently teaching in American institutions and who might be qualified and available for the UAR assignment. He agreed to have this possibility explored within Defense. Mr. Washburn indicated that USIA might be able to assist on financing.


ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

22 SEP 1959